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A CALL TO OUR YOUTH
BY
GENERAL CARIAPPA

In this hour of serious threat to our National Security arising from the unprovoked aggression by China it behoves every one of us old and young, man and woman, boy and girl to get busy to prepare ourselves to contribute our individual mite to help our Government in its big task of removing this threat. On this occasion I make this call to you, our dear youth over the age of sixteen, to suggest to you how you can make your contribution.

As students your main job is to continue your studies seriously, particularly in the study of Science and Technical subjects, to ensure that no vacuum will be caused in the life of the country in its administrative and other National activities, through a serious dearth of educated persons to carry on the countrys' daily work, when life returns to normal, but situations may necessitate many of you having to suspend your studies for the period of this emergency to physically participate in the defence of our Motherland.

Our Defence Services, including the territorial Army, State Home Guards, our Police Forces and the newly organising Civil Volunteer Force all require recruits in thousands, of young men physically fit and tough. All non-student youth, unemployed, should immediately offer for enlistment in the organised forces I have just told you about. I strongly recommend that N.C.C. Rifles should be made Compulsory in all Colleges for only MALE Students.

What are the Student youth to do? Here are my suggestions. Get together in your villages, in your towns, in your educational institutions and Colleges every morning and every evening -off class hours - and take organised physical exercises, go for long walks and long runs and get a jolly good sweat. Where-ever possible climb hills, walk about in thick jungles, learn to swim, by day and by night. Learn to dig and to carry heavy loads. All these activities must be properly organised. It is the duty of higher authority to provide facilities in this respect. Let not rain, heat or cold stop you from this work. In wars fighting does NOT stop because of them.

Train yourselves to go without food, without sleep, without rest and without your creature comforts for short periods occasionally for in wars you may have to go without these sometimes.

Office bearers of Students' Unions throughout the country should get together soon in their respective regional areas to chalk-out plans of action in this respect. Local Military and Police personnel, serving or ex- might be requested to advice and help in this planning.

As for the girls- train yourselves to work for long hours in Static and Sedentary jobs, in Offices and in Factories, relieving fit and young men to enlist for Services in the field. Get trained to be doctors and nurses in large numbers to doctor and nurse our sick and wounded brave soldiers. You can offer your services, in your spare time, to the local Military Hospitals in any capacity. You can visit families of our soldiers in the front, in your neighbourhood and offer to read and write letters for them.

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Do not lose heart yourselves, also tell the people, not to get panicky, whenever news of any reverses are heard over the radio or come out in the press. Reverses in wars are NOT UNUSUAL. Troops withdraw on occasions to more favourable positions in the rear in order to reorganise or re-equip and to resume the offensive at the proper time. Such deliberate withdrawals are sometimes made to discover the enemys' strength and intentions and at times to force him to lengthen his lines of communications to make his maintenance problems difficult and so gain an advantage over him for the offensive. History is full of examples of tactical and strategic withdrawals and of ultimate successes. In very recent times, in Great War II, such withdrawals by the Allies in Europe, in North Africa and in Burma are classic examples of withdrawals and of their ultimate successes. This will happen in our present fighting. Go amongst our simple people and tell them to be men of grit and guts and show their best in this hour of National emergency. Bring to the notice of Government authorities, promptly, cases of black-marketers and such other wicked people as may exploit the innocent and the illiterate by spreading panic amongst them.

Do not please waste your time in organising meetings to pass resolutions to CONDEMN the Chinese aggression and then send on such resolutions to our Prime Minister with your signatures signed in your blood. Every true and loyal Indian Automatically DOES and MUST condemn this aggression and this condemnation does NOT require to be shown by passing resolutions by INDIANS. Every drop of blood you use for signing your names in, is every precious drop of wasted, when blood is required urgently by 'Blood Banks' throughout India for our wounded soldiers.

Save money in every possible way by giving up your luxuries such as sweets, cigarettes, pomp and show at weddings and social functions. Money is required by our Government in very large sums to provide our brave soldiers in the battle field with the best of weapons, best of equipment and the best of everything. Money is also urgently required for our Third Five Year Plan which Plan should NOT, if at all possible, be drastically cut down for want of money. This Plan and Defence, both need money but the need of the Defence is greater at the moment. Go amongst our people of all classes, and impress upon them the fact that un-interrupted implementation of the Five Year Plan - with certain economies here and there, will help the Nations' Economic and Industrial strength and this strength is absolutely vital for our Military Strength. So stepped to thing to give, in cash and in kind, - very liberally to swell up our Nations treasuries. Tell our people to produce more food, to put in honest hard work in the Offices and in the Factories for long hours to finish the job in hand speedily and efficiently. All these have to be done for our survival as a Free and Independant people.

I have implicit faith in you, our very dear youth, as I have always had. India is yours and I know you will spare nothing to see that she is kept free and independant for EVER. Get going and soon.

JAI HIND